NPIC/D-166-69
19 June 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT: Chip Implementation Investigation

1. Development of a systematic film chip system for PI units appears to be a necessity in the future as we confront problems such as:

a. storage and retrieval of large volumes of imagery;

b. insuring efficient use of interpreter time rather than having some wait to receive imagery for study; and

c. holding to a minimum -- for compelling economic reasons -- the number of copies of roll film all of us in the PI world have grown used to ordering and receiving.

2. We have given considerable thought to this, many having concluded until recently that the best solution would be to have [redacted] prepare chips or selected target prints at the time of processing and deliver, say, a can of nuclear reactors or sub bases to PI shops. For a variety of reasons, technical, economic and intelligence-substantive, this no longer appears the best bet and is virtually eliminated from contention. The way of the future seems to lie in having equipment in each PI shop which will be capable of making, storing, and retrieving chips. Though easily stated, this can be very complex and expensive, to say nothing of the difficulty of getting agreement from all PI shops as to what is the best set-up. 25X1

3. As this paper explains, our purpose is to case the situation in detail to develop technological and cost trade-offs and alternatives under a contractual effort which will be tightly controlled to insure realism.

4. The sooner we get started the better. Incidentally, I should add that the study might conclude that major investment in the chip business is unnecessary. It could well be that some of our current R&D work -- particularly the dry-silver process -- can provide the only pay-off necessary.

5. Recommend approval.

[redacted] 25X1

Executive Director
National Photographic Interpretation Center

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